



Request for Canadian Forces Assistance

Units requesting support from Canadian Forces must be prepared to supply suitable RCMP personnel to accompany and communicate with Canadian Forces resources. Members accompanying Canadian Forces personnel must be familiar with the operation and be able to provide direction when required.

File Number
2022-111412

Request Details

Name of Operation

Coutts, Alberta Border Blockade, "Freedom Convoy 2022"

Overview of Operational Plan (this field expands)

A disturbance of the peace is occurring in Coutts, Alberta at the southern border crossing to the USA, where there are currently approximately 50 semi tractor trailers blocking this critical transportation route. A second location (set up by police to control s/b traffic), approximately 16 kilometers north of Coutts, has 19 semi tractor trailers, 67 passenger vehicles, and 8 recreational vehicles which is blocking s/b traffic to the Coutts border. The drivers of these vehicles are acting in protest of mandatory trucker vaccinations. The Milk River RCMP Detachment supported by RCMP resources from throughout Alberta, including the Consultative Conflict Management Group (CCMG), Critical Incident Program, Divisional Intelligence, and municipal police forces from Lethbridge and Calgary are working collaboratively to ensure a coordinated response to keep the peace and protect public safety.

Although there is a potential for violence, none has occurred at this time. There are splinter groups who are capitalizing on this protest to push their own agendas to force the Government to remove all public health restrictions in place due to the pandemic. Ongoing efforts to monitor the activities of these groups/individuals. The truck blockade is affecting unfettered trade and movement of people in Alberta and is of national interest due to the reduction of supply chains during COVID-19.

Given the need to re-open this transportation route, the RCMP has attempted to obtain private industry tow trucks but these companies are refusing to provide their services. There is also information that these companies have received threats and/or have received payment from protest organizers to not provide support to the RCMP. We have contacted over 50 tow companies in Canada, throughout Alberta, eastern BC, and Saskatchewan. We also made special arrangements via CBSA which would permit American tow trucks to cross the border to do the necessary work. We have contacted over 25 tow companies in the USA, including into Helena and Missoula, Montana, which are situated over two hours from the Coutts Port of Entry. We have encountered similar responses to our efforts on the Canadian side, and have no prospect or reason to expect any different answer from further efforts.

Other police forces have been engaged but do not have the ability or scope of equipment to assist. The RCMP also does not have the vehicles nor equipment to effectively deal with this disturbance of the peace which is affecting the national interest. The Alberta RCMP, with support from the Premier of Alberta and Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, are seeking to open up the border crossing. A command post has been established near the Coutts Border point to support this operation. The on scene incident commander is Superintendent Gord Corbett. The RCMP will be on-scene to ensure the safety and security of the CAF equipment and personnel, and will ensure that the CAF will not directly engage with any protesters.

Availability of RCMP or Private Sector Assets

☐ Available ☒ Not Available

Confirm that feasibility of plan has been discussed with local Canadian Forces personnel

☒ Yes ☐ No

Location and/or detachment area where operation will occur (this field expands)

The Port of Coutts operates 24 hours, and is the largest POE in Alberta. Hundreds of commercial and personal vehicles usually travel through this major thoroughfare daily. There are border crossings located at Coutts, Del Bonita, and Carway, Alberta. Coutts is the only 24-hour crossing. The Coutts Port of Entry is positioned at the transition between Highway 4 on the Canadian side, and I-15 on the USA side. Coutts is in the Milk River RCMP Detachment area. The secondary location is also on Highway 4, 16 km north of the Coutts location.

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Security Designation

s.38

Date Required (yyyy-mm-dd)

2022-02-05

Number of Days or Hours Required

undetermined

s.38

s.38

Identify any Other Agencies Involved (this field expands)

The Alberta Sheriff's is assisting with traffic control and support. The Sheriff Department is under the command and control of the RCMP operations, but would not be part of any vehicle removal.

RCMP Contact Persons for the Operation

Name	Rank	Telephone Number (include area code)	Cellular Number (include area code)
Gord Corbett	Supt.	780 412 5455	Irrelevant
Scott Fuller	S/Sgt.	Irrelevant	

Requesting Member

Name	Regimental No.	Division	Section	Date (yyyy-mm-dd)
Assistant Commissioner John Ferguson	O.2311	K	K DEOC Gold Commander	2022/02/04
Signature				

Approved by Commanding Officer or Delegate (usually OIC Criminal Operations)

Name	Signature	Date (yyyy-mm-dd)
Deputy Commissioner Curtis Zablocki	Cm Zablocki	2022-02-04